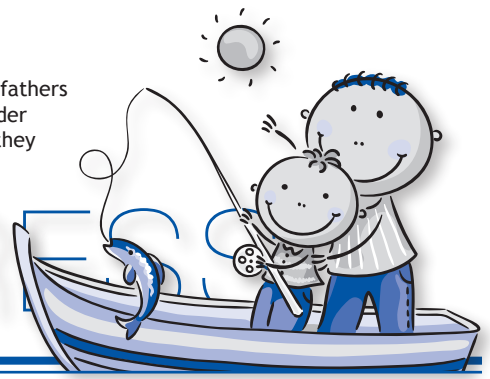


HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! Did you know that 176,000 of the 70 million fathers nationwide are "stay-at-home" dads? These married fathers with children under 15 years old have remained out of the work force for more than one year so they can care for the family while their wives work outside the home.

GAZEBOEXPRESS



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JUNE 2012

BUSINESS IS BOOMING

With five stores new to downtown Highland, the retail corridor is bustling with activity.

Where there used to be a glut of available storefronts, vacant retail space along Highway and Kennedy avenues is now at a premium.

Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro couldn't be happier. "All of this new retail is providing a real boost to downtown," Petro said. "These new businesses are creating clusters of activity and people are beginning to take notice."

The synergy that develops between businesses means customers, who frequent one establishment, often find a reason to shop others nearby.

Julie Glenn, co-owner of The Comfy Couch, noticed an increase in traffic the day she opened and hasn't looked back. Glenn moved The Comfy Couch from a house on 45th Street to the former Van's furniture store on Highway Avenue two blocks west of Kennedy about a month ago.

"I love, love, love being in downtown Highland," Glenn said. "I am between two viable businesses

STREET MARKET

Support local business and enjoy the warm summer weather at the annual street market featuring local produce and artisanal goods.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays

DATES: June 9 through Oct. 20

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: Call the park office at (219) 838-0114.

and I have the space I need in a location that is absolutely perfect."

Maria Curiel and her husband Ignacio, are the owners of Maria's Buena Cocina, downtown's newest eatery tucked behind the old Town Theatre, which features all fresh, made-to-order specialties from south of the border.

"I just had a feeling when we decided to open a restaurant that we should be in Highland. It's a great place to live and have a business," said Curiel, who has lived in Highland with her family for 19 years. "It takes people a little while to find us, but when they do, they come back." 🐦

OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

The Town Council will be mulling how many billboards may be too many as they debate a policy that will detail the number, size and look of outdoor advertising on town-owned property. High traffic volumes along the major thoroughfares, the town's bustling retail corridors and the Borman Expressway make Highland an attractive market for outdoor advertising.

Council President Bernie Zemen said the council will weigh the pros of increasing town revenue against the cons of cluttering the landscape with advertising before making a decision.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

A pair of student interns from DeVry University will spend their summer visiting downtown businesses to increase awareness of the Highland Main Street initiative and create a business database.

"The database will be used only by the Main Street commission as a way to keep businesses in-the-know," Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said. "Our Main Street committees have been very involved in working to increase downtown traffic and we want all of our businesses to be aware of opportunities that may exist for them."

HIGHLAND POLICE JOIN HIDTA INITIATIVE

Highland Police have been selected to work with federal law enforcement to target criminal activity on major thoroughfares throughout the region.

Two Highland officers began working with Indiana State Police in late May on Domestic Highway Enforcement, an initiative of the federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program.

An arm of Office of National Drug Control Policy, HIDTA was established as a lead agency with regional offices throughout the country, particularly in urban regions known to be destinations for illegal drugs smuggled into the U.S.

Officers, who are working as part of the initiative are receiving specialized training and equipment

aimed at targeting those who are part of the illegal drug trade.

As part of the effort, Highland's officers will work highway patrols when they are not on duty in town and will be paid using federal grant funds aimed at crimes, such as drug trafficking, illegal firearms and terrorism. In exchange, Highland will be eligible to receive a portion of any drug forfeiture proceeds that result.

"We feel fortunate that the Indiana State Police chose our department to participate in this initiative," Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said. "The participation of Highland officers will increase our staffing levels on the streets at key times at no additional cost to our residents." 🐦

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Lake County Auditor Peggy Katona said this is the last chance for residents to fill out the proper paperwork to keep their homestead exemption intact.

For the last several years, a pink form was mailed with the property tax bills requesting it be filled out and returned to the auditor's office in Crown Point.

The form asks for specific information regarding your property and exemption and must be filled out and returned in order to maintain the exemption. Every homeowner may claim only one homestead exemption, no matter how many parcels they own.

QUESTIONS? Please call the auditor's office at (219) 755-3120.

SUMMER BLOCK PARTY

Join the Town of Highland's Police, Fire, and Public Works departments for free hot dogs, hamburgers and lemonade. These service professionals will talk about their jobs and allow visitors to tour their vehicles.

WHEN: 6 p.m. June 19

WHERE: Lincoln Center

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Join Highland Parks and Recreation for an evening in the park to sit back, relax and watch "The Adventures of Tin Tin" on the big screen. Concession stand will sell popcorn and fountain drinks. Participants are encouraged to bring a blanket or comfortable lawn chair.

WHEN: Dusk June 22

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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The Gazebo Express is produced by:

The Idea Factory • (219) 381-0634
www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by CJ Printing
9445 Indianapolis Blvd.  94
Highland, IN 46322

NEW SEWER MONITORING SYSTEM IS KEY TO PREVENTING FLOODING

An investment of \$500,000 in a sewer monitoring system is already paying dividends.

Mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the monitoring network was successful in pinpointing a failing pump before it caused problems.

Sanitary Board President Rex Burton said the town's new SCADA system provides round-the-clock, real-time monitoring of the town's sanitary and storm sewers and feeds the data into a central computer at Town Hall.

"When the computer detected significantly reduced flow, we knew we had a problem with the pump," Burton said. "Because most of our infrastructure is located underground, we have had no way to detect a problem until there was one. Today, we are able to see at a glance exactly what each pump is doing, whether we are reaching normal capacity – exceeding expected flows – or if something in the system has become jammed."

PROJECTS FOR 2012

42nd Street: Long-standing problems with the 42nd Street sewers will be eliminated as part of the \$1.2 million project, which will also provide additional capacity to accommodate future expansion east of Kleinman Road.

Indianapolis Boulevard sewer replacement:

As part of the Indianapolis Boulevard bridge project north of Ridge Road, sanitary and storm sewer lines are being replaced and relocated 50 feet from their current location.

Even subtle changes, such as spikes in sanitary sewer flows during rains, will be able to be easily tracked. Those spikes could indicate a pipe failure and help pinpoint a location.

"The SCADA system is already helping us work more proactively to keep the sewer system working as it should," Burton said. That is key in a community like ours, which has a history of flooding." 🐦

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR TOWN LEADERS: MICHAEL GRIFFIN

FROM CAPED CRUSADER TO FINANCIAL WIZARD, CLERK-TREASURER SAYS JOB NEVER GROWS OLD

Michael Griffin didn't just grow up in Highland -- he embraced the community, which has long returned the favor.

His Laverne Drive neighbors remember a scrawny kid with a penchant for the kind of capes favored by superheroes and as many facts as he could stash in his brain on any given day.

He pursued the baritone with as much passion as he did academics, graduating near the top of his 1977 class with the notion of becoming a lifelong learner firmly planted in his psyche.

While attending Indiana University in Bloomington, Griffin was planning a career as a pastor when a notion of public service came calling.

He was selected to intern with the late U.S. Rep. Adam Benjamin in Washington, which Griffin recalls as a highlight of his professional life.

While pursuing his religious calling, he applied for a position working with youth at the Highland Parks Department. An opportunity to work

locally for U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky was followed by the chance of a lifetime -- to campaign for a position as Highland Clerk Treasurer.

Today, Griffin is just beginning his sixth term in office. He has risen to prominence around the state for his public finance acumen and, nationally, as a voice for the first-ring suburbs, which are grappling with innovative solutions to out-migration and tax caps that limit their ability to grow.

He is an adjunct professor at Indiana University Northwest and has never outgrown his love for the baritone, which he plays during parades and outside the bank in support of the Salvation Army during the Christmas holiday season.

"I love serving the people of the town of Highland," said Griffin, the married father of a young daughter. "I feel honored they continue to choose me to work here. This is a job that never grows old." 🐦

FITNESS FRENZY

Lincoln Center's new fitness center has become the hottest spot in town.

Nearly 900 residents are members of the town's first-ever fitness center, a number that continues to grow as neighbors tell neighbors.

From monthly contests designed to keep exercisers motivated to specialized workouts and classes, Recreation Director Angie Gora said the goal is to help town residents get fit.

"We are very pleased with our numbers — those who have joined the fitness center as well as those who are faithful about using the equipment and attending classes," Gora said. "We really didn't know what to expect when we opened in February. We missed the January sign-ups — which always prompt people to make resolutions to live healthier, more fit lives. We are projecting we will have 1,200 members by the end of the year."

The fitness center staff is keeping things fun with monthly contests designed to increase participation and encourage members to meet their fitness goals. Each contest is themed:

- **MARCH:** The blitz spurred regular exercise.
- **APRIL:** "The Summit" encouraged members to scale the world's tallest peaks using the incline feature on cardio machines.
- **MAY:** "The Bucket List" promoted variation in exercise.



SUMMER WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE

The goal is simple: Have your Team (3 per group) lose the most weight and learn how to keep it off! Everyone will meet on Mondays to weigh-in, work on stumbling blocks and talk about nutrition to fit your lifestyle. All teams will be assigned a weekly fitness coach that will work with the group twice a week. On the fourth week, the team with the biggest loss will get to pick the coach they want for the final week. At the final weigh-in, the team with the biggest weight loss will win a free 4-week CXWORX session.

HERE'S THE SKINNY ...

All summer weight loss participants must be a Lincoln Center Fitness member and at least 18 years of age.

WEIGH-INS: 6 p.m. Mondays, JULY 9 THROUGH AUG. 6

TRAINING: Teams will workout twice a week for 30 minutes. Time slots will depend on the coach assigned that week.

TEAM FEE: \$402/\$450, limit of 3 teams per session (More than a \$950 value)

REGISTRATION: Must register no later than July 3

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 or visit www.highlandparks.org.

STUDENT WAIVER

Are you on summer break from school but still want the benefits of working out at the gym? Lincoln Fitness Center is waiving its initiation fee for all college students interested in joining the fitness center this summer. Students must present a valid student ID in order to participate.

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 or visit www.highlandparks.org.

PARADE DONATIONS

The Highland Council of Community Events is seeking monetary donations to support the July 4th Celebration Twilight Parade. You may donate as little or as much as you like. All gifts will be recognized on parade day.

The council is also accepting parade applications, which can be downloaded online at www.highland.in.gov. Line-up begins at 4:30 p.m. and the parade steps off at 6:30 p.m. July 3. There is no entry fee and categories include: antique cars, high school band/cheer, dignitaries/VFW/politicians, fire/police, float/decorated vehicles, ORAK and walkers. Applications are due June 27.

New this year? A parade contest! If you wish to participate, just check the box on the application.

INFO: Email HighlandCCE@gmail.com or call Erica Rozenich at (219) 718-1610.

CHRISTKINDLMARKET

Highland Main Street Commission is seeking volunteers for its first ever Christkindlmarket during the holiday season. Inspired by the 700-year-old traditional German Christkindl Markt, or Christ Child Market, the authentic Christmas Market is a festive event featuring unique handmade crafts and traditional Christkindl treats.

INFO: Interested volunteers please call Cecile Petro at (219) 972-7598.

HORMONE THERAPY

Are you confused about hormone replacement therapy? Do you suffer from hot flashes, night sweats, anxiety, depression, mood swings, loss of concentration/memory, PMS, low libido or sleep disturbances?

Bio-identical hormone replacement therapy is available to those who don't want to use synthetic hormones, prefer not to regulate their hormones with birth control pills or mask their symptoms with anti-depressants.

Learn about the benefits of plant-based human-identical hormones and how to work with your health care professional to determine your hormone levels and specific needs. Question and Answer session will follow the seminar presented by V.J. Damasius, PharmD, of Vyto's Pharmacy in Highland and Hammond. Registration is required.

WHEN: 6 to 8 p.m. July 23

WHERE: Lincoln Center

FEE: \$6 residents/\$9 nonresidents

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

RED HOT TENNIS

Learn proper tennis techniques from instructors Steve and Ofelia. Steve is a longtime USPTR tennis pro at Match Point and head coach at Calumet College. Ofelia is a USPTR tennis pro at Match Point, assistant girls tennis coach at Highland High School and assistant coach at Calumet College. Camp is open to boys and girls 5 to 18 years old. They will meet Monday through Thursday with raindates of Fridays. Bring your own tennis racquet and water bottles. Remember to dress comfortably and wear sunscreen.

EARLY SESSION: 8 to 9:30 a.m. **JUNE 11-28**

LATE SESSION: 9:30 to 11 a.m. **JUNE 11-28**

WHERE: Highland High School tennis courts

FEE: \$125/\$135 per 3 week session; \$85/\$95 per 2 week session (for vacations); \$45/\$50 for 1 week session (for vacations).

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

SOUNDS OF SUMMER

Sultry skies and oh-so-warm evening temperatures lend themselves to spending quality time outdoors and this summer should be no exception. Highland Parks and North Township have each created a roster of summer outdoor concerts to keep us entertained from now until Labor Day. Grab a comfy lawn chair and your favorite bug spray and get ready to head to the parks.

MAIN SQUARE PARK CONCERT SERIES

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

WHEN: 7 p.m.

ADMISSION: Free

AGES: All ages

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 or at www.highlandparks.org.

JUNE 7: Community Band

JUNE 14: Neverly Brothers

JUNE 21: Fast Eddie & the Corvettes

JULY 12: Dan Mateja & the Downtown Sound

JULY 19: Billy Joel & Elton John tribute

WICKER PARK CONCERT SERIES

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center Gazebo

DOORS OPEN: 7 p.m.

SHOWTIME: 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

ADMISSION: \$5

AGES: 21 and over

INFO: Call (219) 838-3420 or at www.wickermemorialpark.com.

JUNE 21: Final Say

JUNE 28: Gone 2 Paradise - fireworks

JULY 5: Dick Diamond & the Dusters

JULY 12: Jason & the Haymakers

JULY 19: Trippin Billies

JULY 26: Heartless

AUG. 2: Dot Dot Dot

AUG. 8: History's End

SEPT. 13: Visions of Santana

Mexican Independence Day celebration

JULY 4 CELEBRATION

ATTEND THE FESTIVAL

The Fourth of July Festival kicks off at Main Square Park and features:

FRIDAY, JUNE 29

FESTIVAL: 5 p.m. to midnight

5:30 - 7 PM Lyin' Delilah

7:15 - 8:45 PM Retro Girls

9 - 11:30 PM Shy Violet

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

FESTIVAL: 1 p.m. to midnight

WRISTBANDS: \$20 from 1 to 5 p.m.

3:45 - 5 PM Jef Sarver

5:15 - 6:45 PM Three Peace

7:15 - 8:45 PM Oscar & the Majestics

9:15 - 10:45 PM Bad Examples

SUNDAY, JULY 1

FESTIVAL: 1 to 10 p.m.

WRISTBANDS: \$20 from 1 to 5 p.m.

1 - 3 PM Ed Pakan Group

3:30 - 3:45 PM Humane Society

Calumet Area Spotlight

4 - 5 PM Brown's Music Bus

5:30 - 7 PM Take 5 - Ted Tomsak

Polka Band

8 - 9:30 PM 25 or 6 to 4
(Chicago tribute band)

MONDAY, JULY 2

FESTIVAL: 5 to 10 p.m.

WRISTBANDS: \$20 from 5 to 10 p.m.

5 - 6 PM Robert Rolfe Feddersen

6:15 - 7:45 PM Michael McDermott

8 - 9:30 PM Bonnie Kolac

TUESDAY, JULY 3

FESTIVAL: 5 p.m. to midnight

7:15 - 8:45 PM Pawnz

9:15 - 10:45 PM The Dancing Noodles
starring Roman Sawczak

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

FESTIVAL: 1 to 9 p.m.

WRISTBANDS: \$20 from 1 to 5 p.m.

LAST BLAST: \$15 from 6 to 9 p.m.

1:30 - 2:30 PM Erika Rayne

2:45 - 4:15 PM Nickel and Dime

4:45 - 6:15 PM Threatles

6:45 - 8:15 PM Josh Holmes
and the Greasers

ENJOY THE FIREWORKS

Grab a blanket or your favorite lawn chair and join us for Highland's spectacular fireworks display at 9 p.m. July 4 at Homestead Park.

KNOW THE RULES

Fireworks are allowed between 5 p.m. and two hours after sunset June 29 through July 9. The exception is July 4 between 10 a.m. and midnight. "We want residents to follow the rules and to be safe," Police Chief Pete Hojnicki said. "Fireworks can be very dangerous. Take every precaution to stay safe."

RUN THE MILE

This annual one-mile race kicks off the Twilight Independence Day Parade. All participants receive a T-shirt. Entry forms are available at Lincoln Center. Register race day at the School Administration Building. Open to all age groups, the race begins at 6:15 p.m. July 3 at 40th Street and Kennedy Avenue. The fee is \$6 in advance and \$9 on race day.

WATCH THE PARADE

This year's Fourth of July Parade Grand marshals are the Highland Boy Scouts. The twilight parade begins at 6:30 p.m. July 3 at St. James the Less Catholic Church (45th and Kennedy), continues north on Kennedy to Highway Avenue and east along Highway to the park. A kiddie parade will take place at 11:45 a.m. July 4 in the parking lot across from Traditions Restaurant.

